

March 29, 2010

(for Application #16928)

Applicant Review Panel  
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA, 95814

Greetings:

I am Dean Vogel, Vice President of the California Teachers Association, a position I have held since June 26, 2007. I have also served CTA as the Secretary-Treasurer (2003-2007) and as a member of the Board of Directors (1996-2003). Before my tenure on the CTA Board of Directors, I was a classroom teacher and an elementary school counselor in the Vacaville Unified School District, but it is from my perspective as a CTA leader that I write this letter of recommendation. I am writing this letter in support of Janet Robertson and her quest to be named to the California First Citizens' Redistricting Commission.

I have known Janet Robertson for nearly 20 years and have worked with her in a number of settings within the association. Janet has been a CTA State Council representative for nine years. During her three terms, she has served as Chair, Vice Chair, and as a member of the Representation Committee for CTA. She has had extensive experience working with redistricting. The Representation Committee is comprised of State Council members who are charged with understanding the dynamics of changing demographics and the critical importance of adjusting boundaries to reflect shifts in population, and to recommend logistics for the most fair and equitable representation possible. Janet Robertson was Chair of the Representation Committee when CTA re-drew directorial districts which changed representation for both sitting and new CTA Board members as well as the CTA members they represent. This was a controversial, difficult, and yet very necessary process, and Janet, as Chair of Representation, made sure that every detail was considered, every person was heard, and that the process was done fairly and with as much transparency as possible. Her meticulous attention to detail, policy, and protocol ensured that everyone knew that this difficult task was being carried out with as much integrity and attention to the ultimate goals of effective and equitable

representation as possible. Janet also understands the political dynamics of the state of California. As an active CTA leader in local, regional, and statewide politics, Janet has been involved in the political process in a hands-on way for many years. She thoroughly understands the benefits of a fair and equitable process for determining political districts.

The critical nature of this work requires a combination of intelligence, thoughtfulness, and assertiveness, as well as effective communication skills, not normally present in most people. The work also demands an acute appreciation of the benefits of determined effort and critical attention to detail. Over the years, I have worked with hundreds of people who claim to possess these necessary skills, yet few have been able to demonstrate them. Janet, however, demonstrates these qualities consistently. She has excelled in every capacity and has become a model for those of us in the association who aspire to do similar quality work. I recommend Janet without reservation for this appointment to the California First Redistricting Commission. Please feel free to contact me personally if you have need of any further information regarding Janet's qualifications for this work.

Respectfully,

Dean E. Vogel, Vice President  
California Teachers Association